**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—In the light of the discussion that we had in the last session, may I know whether the order which gave room for criticism will be cancelled?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—I do not follow.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—The question refers to the inefficiency of the clerical staff of the court which led to the proceedings of the Government that 50% of the posts will be reserved for graduates in the name of efficiency. We had a discussion in the Kumbham session on that point and a cut motion was carried. Will the Government be pleased to cancel that order which has been made fixing the percentage of clerkships on graduates?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—I think the matter is under consideration. There are some other petitions also.

## Devices to prevent Brakish water from entering paddy fields.

608. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—With reference to question No. 108 answered on 1st December 1932, will the Government be pleased to print and place on the table the report of the Chief Engineer suggesting certain devices and state:—

(a) whether the Government are satisfied that these devices will prevent brackish water from entering the paddy fields;

(b) whether it was not the Madras Government that had pointed out "the danger of introducing brakish water to the detriment of paddy lands in the neighbourhood";

(c) whether the devices suggested by the Chief Engineer have been brought to the attention of the Madras Government;

(d) whether the Madras Government have approved that the devices suggested will prevent the danger referred to by them;

(e) whether the devices suggested by the Chief Engineer should not be approved of by the Madras Government before taking up the work for execution; and if so,

(f) what steps have been taken by the Government to get the devices suggested approved by the Madras Government?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—A copy of the Chief Engineer's report is placed on the table. (*Appendix IX*).

(a) It is expected that the means suggested will prove successful.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No answer required in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Madras Government will be addressed when the State finances improve.

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## APPENDIX IX.

*(Vide Answer to Question No. 608.)*

*Letter dated 9th August 1932, C. No. 2427/07, from the Chief Engineer.*

Subject:—Canal communication to Kunnamkulam—opening of.

"The proposal is to open a new canal from Edakkazhiyur in British Malabar with a view to connect the neighbourhood of Kunnamkulam with the Ponnani navigation canal which runs from Orumanayur near Chetwayi in British Malabar to Ponnani. The canal will be tidal and subject to the influx of salt water. It is stated that such a canal may prove a source of danger by introducing salt water to the detriment of paddy lands in the neighbourhood.

The Special Irrigation Assistant Engineer who inspected the places that may be traversed by the canal, reports that across the Ponnani Navigation Canal referred to above, the British P. W. D. have been for a long time putting up two bunds to prevent the ingress of salt water. The southern one is at Orumanayur near Chetwayi. It is about 78'—0" long and is made up of puddle earth protected with thaithal work supported on bamboo and cocoanut posts driven into the bed of the canal. It has two gaps with sluice arrangement 10'—0" and 8'—0" wide through which boats are allowed to pass during favourable low tide when there will be no risk of salt water getting into the canal. There is another bund in the immediate neighbourhood of this which is intended as a second line of defence. The P. W. D. have sold the right of levying some fee for each boat so passed through the gaps and they get about Rs. 3475 from the contractor who has to pay this amount and to maintain the bund at a cost of about Rs. 300 annually. The bund is put up by him early in October and removed by the end of May when fresh water is likely to preponderate with the burst of the monsoon.

The second bund is put up at Andathodu near Ponnani about 4½ miles distant from Kattakampal in Talappalli Taluk. It is about 50'—0" long and similar in construction to the bund referred to above.

This is also maintained by the British P. W.D. and leased to a contractor who is paying them a decent amount.

The arrangement that exists at these places is similar to that we had at Karanchira.

These two bunds are reported to successfully withstand the ingress of salt water and all that will be required in the particular case under reference is to have such a bund put up at a suitable point in the neighbourhood of the first area of wet lands through which the proposed canal will traverse. This, too, may be leased with advantage. The cost of putting up necessary bund will be only small, say about Rs. 250 and will be borne by the contractor who bids it in auction."

(True copy)

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